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*Scarcity of water.*

Notwithstanding the efforts of the municipality to increase and improve the water supply of the city by utilizing new pools and installing the proper plant, the supply of water continues small, and the quality of the water served is very bad. If the present system continues unsatisfactory artesian wells will be dug.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

## GERMANY.

*Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera in various countries.*

Consul-General Mason reports, March 28, as follows:

*Plague.*

*British India.*—During the week ended February 28 there were registered in the Bombay Presidency 15,033 plague cases (and 11,672 deaths), of which 1,320 cases (1,182 deaths) occurred in the city of Bombay and 58 cases (46 deaths) in Karachi.

*Mauritius.*—During the five weeks between the 2d of January and 5th of February 44 cases of plague and 27 deaths were registered on the island.

*Brazil.*—During the period from the 17th of January to the 20th of February 6 deaths from plague occurred in Rio de Janeiro.

*Cholera.*

*Dutch India.*—According to official bulletins there were registered in Batavia between the 19th of December and 1st of January 4 cases of cholera and 1 death. In Samarang between the 10th of December and 13th of January there occurred 46 cases and 36 deaths. In Soerabaya there were registered between the 21st of December and the 24th of January 82 cases of cholera and 63 deaths. In Palembang there occurred between the 20th and 26th of December 1 case and 1 death. In Padamaron there occurred between the 8th and 14th of January 2 cases and 2 deaths, and in Sampang (Madura) between the 19th of December and 24th of January 4 cases and 2 deaths.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

## HAWAII.

*Report on the plague situation at Hilo.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Cofer, chief quarantine officer for Hawaii, reports, March 30, as follows:

I have the honor to make the following report on the plague situation at Hilo, island of Hawaii, and the action taken by this office as a result of my recent visit to that place. On March 9 I cabled that a death from plague had occurred at Hilo. It was not until March 22 that the report was officially verified. On this date, however, I received a letter from Acting Assistant Surgeon Grace, who reported 2 new cases of plague at Hilo with 1 death. President C. B. Cooper, of the Hawaiian Territorial board of health, received similar information from Dr. Stow, his representative at Hilo. Upon the authority of your cablegram of March 23 I left Honolulu Tuesday, and

arrived here Saturday, March 28. The first case was seen by Dr. Stow on March 4. Death had occurred shortly before his arrival at the house, and an examination followed by necropsy showed the cause of death to be plague of the bubonic variety.

This case occurred in an Hawaiian boy of 13 years of age, who lived on the bank of the Waiakea River near the depot of the Hilo Railroad Company. He was what is known as a "wharf rat." The premises were carefully examined for dead rats, but none were discovered. No one could explain even the probable source of infection in this case. The inmates of the house were immediately removed to an adjacent house and the infected premises disinfected as well as could be done. On March 16 two brothers of the first case, one aged 18 years and the other aged 15 years, were taken sick with bubonic plague. When seen by Drs. Grace and Stow one of the boys had enlargement of the cervical glands, with rapid, feeble pulse and labored respiration. This case died the day following, March 17. The other case had enlarged glands in both groins and both axillæ. He was not very sick when first seen, but was much worse next day. When I left Hilo this case was much improved, and Dr. Stow expects him to recover. The patients were both removed to the pesthouse and the contacts were isolated. The house was then disinfected by sulphur fumigation.

Dr. Grace informs me that this locality is frequented by sailors; so I ordered the following outgoing quarantine restrictions: First, the disinfection of all sailing vessels; second, the disinfection of all baggage of steerage passengers and crew; third, the disinfection of all freight likely to carry infection; fourth, the disinfection of the local steamer to San Francisco; fifth, the certification of ships and passengers.

I took with me to Hilo a carboy of formalin mixture and 2,000 pounds of roll sulphur. The president of the board of health sent down a large autoclave, which he offered to lend to us whenever we wanted it. He also sent his engineer to act as instructor in house disinfection. I purchased sulphur pans and water tubs, and as there was a ship ready to sail to San Francisco we disinfected her with sulphur and the crew's dunnage with the autoclave, and thus had good opportunity to give the necessary instruction in the disinfection of vessels. This was done by Dr. Grace, his assistant, and the board of health engineer, under my supervision. The necessary blank forms will be immediately sent to Hilo. I have recommended to President Cooper, of the Hawaiian Territorial board of health, that all interisland steamers be disinfected at regular intervals. He stated that he would take the matter up immediately. This office disinfected all of them about a year ago, and I have offered to do it again, but the offer was declined. The enforcement of this measure must come through the board of health.

#### *Varioloid on S. S. Gaelic.*

The steamship *Gaelic* arrived at Honolulu March 30, from oriental ports en route to San Francisco, with a case of smallpox in the steerage. The case, contacts, and 211 steerage passengers, with their baggage, were treated at the quarantine station. Steerage passengers bound for San Francisco were bathed and their baggage disinfected while the living quarters were being fumigated; all persons were vaccinated. Steerage passengers will be held in quarantine fourteen days.